

The Glory of Ancient Greece

Chapter Preview

This chapter will introduce you to

Section 1

Daily Life in Athens

Section 2

Athens and Sparta

Section 3

The Spread of Greek Culture



Target Reading Skill

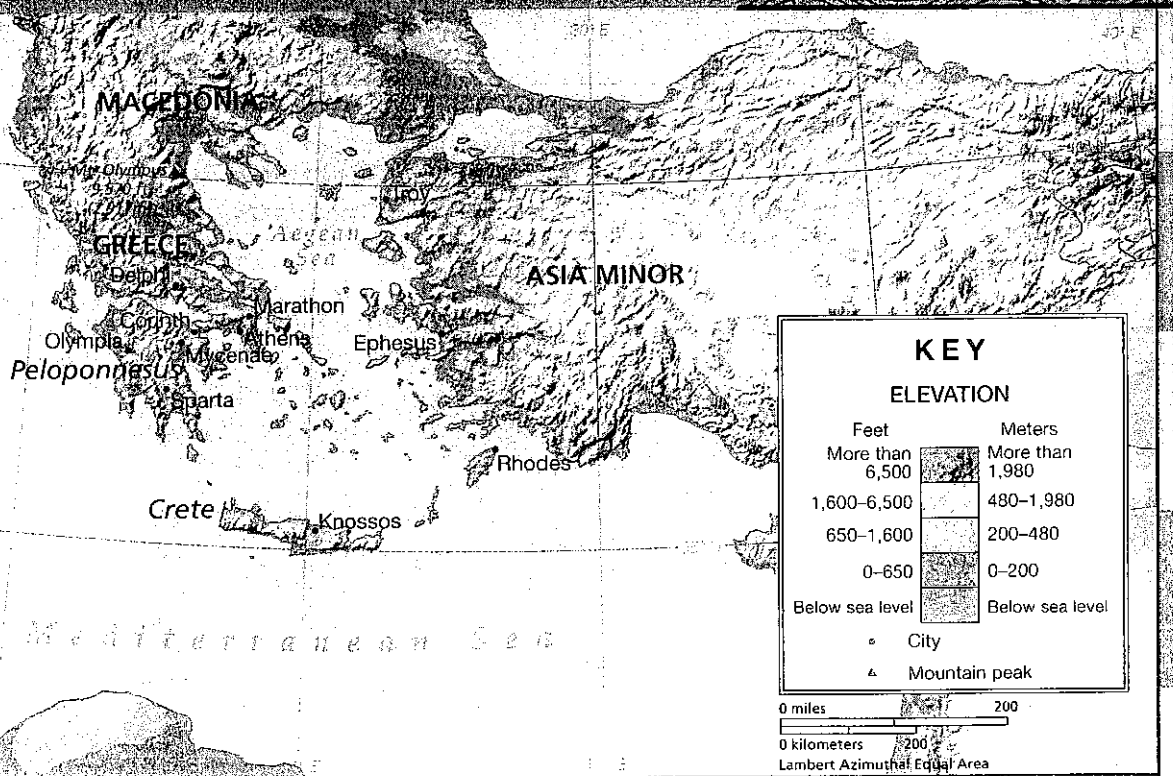
Make Comparisons and Contrasts In this chapter you will learn to compare and contrast to help you sort out and analyze information.

- At the Acropolis in Athens, these statues on the porch of the Erechtheion are called *Caryatids*, possibly because women called the *Karyai* were the models.



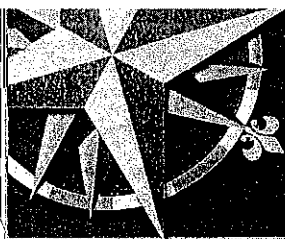
MAP MASTER Skills Activity

The Glory of Ancient Greece



Lesson 11 In the Mediterranean civilization of the fifth century B.C., travel over land was difficult and dangerous. **Identify** Examine the map to discover how many cities are close to the sea. **Draw Conclusions** Use the topographical features of the map to determine what other reason might cause cities to be located where they are. Use the same features to explain why overland travel was difficult.

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 mup-0701 for step-by-step
 map skills practice.



Daily Life in Athens

Prepare to Read

Objectives

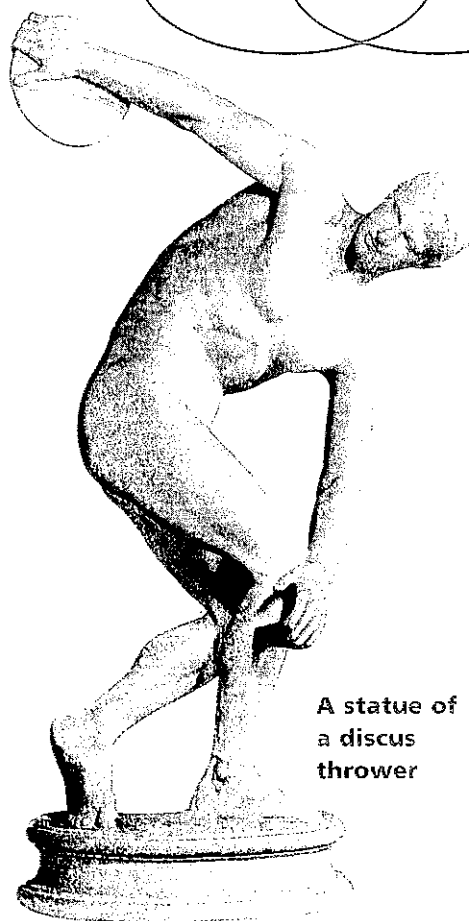
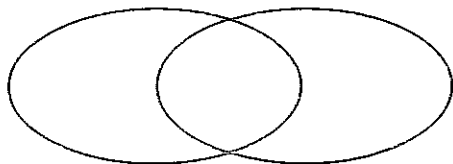
In this section you will

1. Learn about public life in Athens.
2. Find out how Athenians spent their time when they were at home.
3. Understand how slavery operated in ancient Greece.

Taking Notes

As you read, look for ways that life is similar and different for various people in Ancient Greece. Copy the Venn diagram below. Write the differences in the outside areas and the similarities where the circles overlap.

Life in Ancient Greece



A statue of a discus thrower



Target Reading Skill

Compare and Contrast

Comparing and contrasting can help you sort out and analyze information. When you compare, you examine the similarities between things. When you contrast, you look at the differences. As you read this section, compare and contrast the daily life of Athenians. Write the information in your Taking Notes diagram.

Key Terms

- **Athens** (ATH unZ) *n.* a city-state in ancient Greece; the capital of modern-day Greece
- **agora** (AG uh ruh) *n.* a public market and meeting place in an ancient Greek city; the Agora, spelled with a capital A, refers to the agora of Athens
- **vendor** (VEN dur) *n.* a seller of goods
- **slavery** (SLAY vur ee) *n.* condition of being owned by, and forced to work for, someone else

The light from the courtyard was still gray when the young boy awoke. He sat up on his hard bed and felt the morning air on his face. It was time to get up for school. The boy swallowed his breakfast, pulled his cloak around him, and left the house.

On the way to school, the boy met other students. All were carrying wooden tablets covered with wax. They would write their lessons on the tablets. They talked about their lesson, a long passage of history that they had to memorize.

The best part of the day came after school. Then, the boy spent the afternoon at the training ground. All the boys exercised and practiced wrestling and throwing a flat plate called a discus. Sometimes they watched older athletes training to compete in the Olympic Games, held in honor of Zeus.

This story shows how a boy might have spent his day in ancient Athens. A look at daily life in ancient Athens will help you understand how many people lived in the early days of Greece.

Public Life

Boys growing up in Athens needed only to look around to understand that it was the men who were active in politics, in society, and in other aspects of Athenian public life. The boys knew that they could look forward to assuming an important role in Athenian public life as they became adults.

The Marketplace On their way to school, the boys passed through the Agora of Athens. The Acropolis was the center of Athens' religious life, and the Agora was the center of its public life. The Agora was near the Acropolis, which rose in splendor above it. All Greek cities had agoras, or public markets and meeting places. The Agora in Athens was probably the busiest and most interesting of them all. The mild climate of Athens made it possible to carry on business in the open.

The Business of Men In the morning, many Athenian men made their way to the Agora. In the Agora, the men talked of politics, philosophy, or events in their community.

As they talked, they heard the cries of vendors, or sellers of goods. Buyers and vendors commonly haggled, or bargained, for the best prices. The streets were lined with shops. Farmers and artisans also sold their wares from stands set up under shady trees. Just about any food an Athenian would want could be found in the Agora. Other goods were also for sale—sheep's wool, pottery, hardware, cloth, and books.

Public Buildings Temples and government buildings lined the Agora. The buildings were often beautiful structures, for Athenians greatly admired beauty in architecture. The Greek classical style of architecture continues to influence how buildings are built in our time. Many government buildings in Europe and the United States were patterned after Greek architecture.

✓ Reading Check What business did Athenian men conduct in the Agora?



Community Life

The ruins of an agora are shown above. Greeks used agoras as public markets and meeting places. A vase from the 400s shows two Greeks discussing philosophy. **Analyze** Why do you think the Agora was the center of public life in Athens?

At Home in Athens

The splendor of public buildings in Athens contrasted with the simplicity of people's houses, even in the Golden Age.

Ancient Greek wine vessel



Compare and Contrast

Where did Athenian men spend most of their time? Where did Athenian women spend most of their time? What was similar about their daily lives?

Private Life Throughout Greece, private homes were plain. Made of mud bricks, Greek houses consisted of rooms set around an open courtyard that was hidden from the street. The courtyard was the center of the household. Other rooms might include a kitchen, storerooms, a dining room, and bedrooms. Some homes even had bathrooms. Water had to be carried from a public fountain.

The ancient Greeks ate simple foods. Breakfast might be just bread. For midday meals, Athenians might add cheese or olives to the bread. Dinner would be a hot meal that was more filling. It might consist of fish and vegetables followed by cheese, fruit, and even cakes sweetened with honey. Most Athenians ate little meat. Even wealthy families ate meat only during religious festivals.

Women of Athens If you had walked through the Agora, you would have noticed that most of the people there were men. If you had asked where the women were, an Athenian man might have replied, "At home."

Home was where most Athenian women spent their days. Women led secluded lives. Athenian men thought that women needed to be protected. Keeping them out of the public eye, men thought, gave women the most protection.

Greek Women

The women of ancient Greece making bread, as shown in the figure at right. *Predict Use what you know about the lives of ancient Greeks to predict where girls might gather to play games.*



Most Greeks thought that women needed to be guided by men. Women had almost none of the freedom their husbands, sons, and fathers took for granted. They could not take any part in politics. Nor could they vote. They could not own property. About the only official activity allowed them was to be priestesses in religious groups.

Running the home and family was the job of women. In some wealthy families, men and women had completely separate quarters. Women organized the spinning and weaving, looked after supplies of food and wine, and cared for young children. They also kept track of the family finances. If a family was wealthy enough to have slaves, they were the woman's responsibility as well. She directed them, trained them, and cared for them when they were sick.

If a woman lived in a poor household, she often worked outside of the home. Women who had little money found jobs making pottery, tending sheep, or manufacturing cloth from wool.

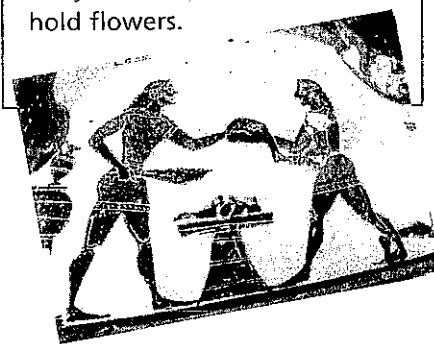
Although women throughout Greece did important work, they were expected to be almost invisible. As Pericles once said: "The greatest glory belong to the woman who is least talked about by men, either they praise her or find fault with her."

✓ Reading Check What kinds of foods did Athenians eat?

Links to Art

Painting Their Lives

Athenians were known for their beautiful pottery. They decorated vases, jars, and cups with black or reddish-tan figures. Many scenes were mythological, but others showed Athenian daily life. Some of the pottery was used in religious ceremonies. However, much of it was used in Athenian households to carry water, serve food, and hold flowers.



Slavery in Ancient Greece

Slaves did a great deal of work throughout the city-states of Greece. It was the labor of the slaves that gave Athenian men the leisure time to go to the Agora, participate in government, and develop a love of the arts.

Slavery, the condition of being owned by someone else, was common in Athens. Historians estimate that as many as 100,000 slaves may have lived in Athens. This would mean that almost one third of the city's population were slaves. Today, we consider slavery a crime. However, in ancient times free people rarely questioned slavery, even in democratic Athens.

Who Were the Slaves? Many free people became enslaved when they were captured by armies during war or by pirates while traveling on ships. Children born into slave families automatically became slaves.

Some Greeks were uncomfortable owning other Greeks. Greeks with such scruples, or ethical objections to a situation, solved this problem by owning foreign slaves. A large number of slaves in Greece were foreigners.



The Slaves of Athens

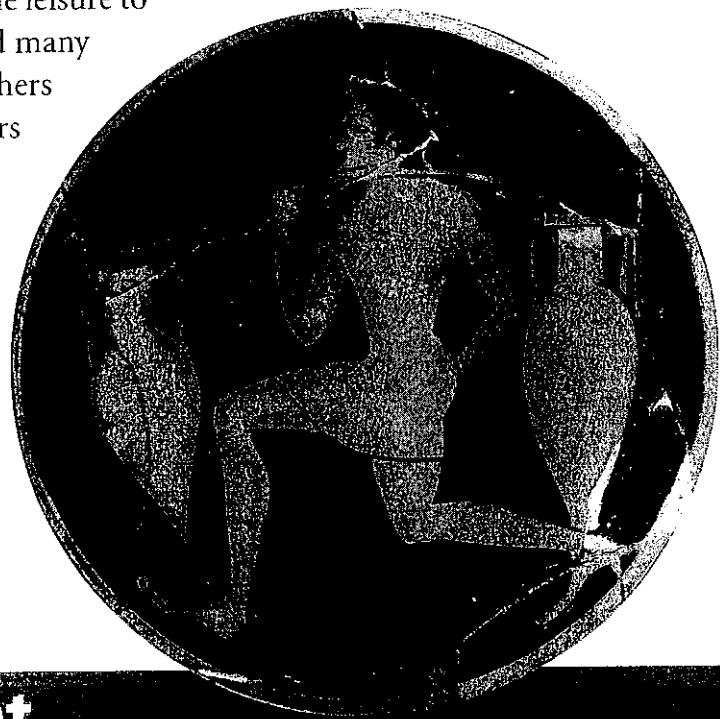
In this detail from a vase, a servant attends to a seated woman. Draw Conclusions Based on what you have read, draw a conclusion about the ancient Greek's attitudes toward slavery.

The Lives of Slaves Slaves did not have any of the privileges taken for granted by the rest of Greek society. Citizenship in Greece was very restricted, so it follows that slaves, on the lowest rung of Greek society, were not citizens. They had no political rights or personal freedom and they received no formal education. Slaves could only become free if they bought their own freedom or if their master freed them.

Remember that without the labor of the slaves, Greek citizens—that is, Greek men—would not have had the leisure to participate in government and the arts. Slaves did many kinds of work. Some provided labor on farms. Others dug silver and other metals in mines. Still others assisted artisans by making pottery and other decorative items. Some slaves helped construct buildings. Others helped forge weapons and armor. Most Greek households could not have operated without slaves. They cooked and served food, tended children, cleaned, and wove cloth.

✓ Reading Check What kinds of labor did slaves perform?

A painting from a cup shows a male slave balancing two vessels.



Section 1 Assessment

Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.

Target Reading Skill

Name two ways in which the lives of Athenian men and women were similar. Name two ways in which they differed.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) **Describe** What activities took place in the Agora of Athens?
- (b) **Explore Main Ideas and Details** What does the Agora tell us about the culture of Athens?

2. (a) **Recall** Describe the home life of the Athenians.

(b) **Compare** What were the responsibilities of men compared to those of women in ancient Athens?

(c) **Draw Conclusions** Considering your answer to the previous question, what conclusions can you make about society in ancient Athens?

3. (a) **Recall** Describe the various roles of slaves in Athens and of those in the rest of ancient Greece.

(b) **Draw Inferences** Free people rarely questioned slavery in ancient Greece. Why do you think this was so?

Writing Activity

Write a description of your school-day routine. How does your day compare with that of the Greek boy you read about at the beginning of this section?

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